p Art Unit: 3627 miner: Lugo, C.

Atty. Ref.: USUI-12N

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

Shoichiro Usui

Appl. No.

09/731,170

Filed

December 6, 2000

For

HIGH-PRESSURE METAL PIPE HAVING CONNECTING HEAD AND METHOD FORMING THE CONNECTING HEAD AS WELL AS

SLEEVE WASHER FOR THE CONNECTING HEAD?

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

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ELECTION

GROUP 3600

Sir:

This election is submitted in response to the Restriction Requirement of December 3, 2001. The applicant hereby elects claims 1 and 4. Early and favorable action on the elected claims is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald E. Hespo's, Esa. Atty. Reg. No. 30,066

Customer No. 001218

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Date: December 14, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

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December 14, 2001